



# NEWS

about  
Connecticut  
Women

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## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *What would it be like to have a female President of the United States? Two 9<sup>th</sup> Graders Win Top Honors in Essay Contest*

### MAKING WOMEN VISIBLE DAY 2007!

Hartford—The state legislature's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women's (PCSW) Young Women's Leadership Program asked 9<sup>th</sup> graders, "What would it be like to have a female President of the United States?" and "Why is it important to have female leaders?" Winners were announced and awards presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual *Making Women Visible Day*, Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the State Capitol in Hartford.

Caroline Kitchener of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich won first place with her essay *Defying Monotony*. "Leadership is a male domain, a domain of grumpy looking, white, middle-aged men in dry-cleaned black suits and starched white button ups", she starts her essay. "The monotony is stifling", she continues. "Finally a woman has entered the scene, bringing with her that vibrant fervor needed to ignite change. She will defy monotony".

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Jason Feinman of Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury is the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner. His essay is entitled *U.S. Democracy?* “America claims to be a democracy”, he writes. “but what kind of democracy hasn’t had a woman for a President?” “Women deserve a place in the government just as much as men. Think...What would happen if there were more women in government or maybe even in the Presidency? For once we might be able to call ourselves a true democracy”.

Twenty-five other students, the runners up are featured in a publication released by the PCSW today. The publication is also available on the PCSW’s website at [www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw).

Runners up were:

Chalise Crawford and Christina Headley of Bloomfield High School, Alison Caless, Jacob Freeman, Amy Hartzog and Caitlin O’Connor of Bolton High School, Kelsey Henry and Ishaira Nieto of the CT International Baccalaureate Academy in East Hartford, Carly Graf and Alex McNulty from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Anna Karvelis of the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, Greta Waag from Immaculate High School in Sherman, Sarah Carpenter and Brandon O’Halloran from Litchfield High School, Rachael Symonds of the Metropolitan Learning Center in Windsor, Jackson Farquhar of New London High School, Kate Bove, Ben Goldstein, Lizzy Kinnard, Chris Knobloch, Danielle Violette, Stephanie Watko, Emma Welty and Riley Williams-Frey of Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury and Sarah Green of West Haven High School.

Schools participating included:

Bloomfield High, Bolton High, CT International Baccalaureate Academy (East Hartford), Convent of the Sacred Heart (Greenwich), Fairfield Ludlowe High, Griswold High, Holy Cross High (Waterbury), Immaculate High (Sherman), Litchfield High, New London High, Nonnewaug High (Woodbury), Sacred Heart High, the Ethel Walker School (Simsbury), the Metropolitan Learning Center (Windsor) and West Haven High.

The Young Women's Leadership Program was established in 2006 as a project of the PCSW. It is lead by a group of young women representing a wide variety of career fields and areas of expertise. The program sponsors a yearly essay contest for high school students, a reproductive Justice Networking event, promotes legislative advocacy, speaker's bureau and e-newsletters. Its mission is to inspire and empower young women in high schools, vocational schools, colleges and beyond to emerge as leaders.

The PCSW was established by the CT General Assembly in 1973. The Commission studies all matters concerning women, informs leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serves as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promotes consideration of women for governmental positions and works with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women.

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